## CLEAN COPY OF CLAIMS SHOWING AMENDMENTS MADE

- A process for the preparation of transparent or translucent O/W microemulsions which comprise:
  - (1) an aqueous phase with optional substances soluble or dispersible in water,
  - (2) an oil phase comprising constituents of low volatility and optional substances soluble or dispersible in the oil phase,
  - (3) one or more polyethoxylated O/W emulsifiers and/or one or more polypropoxylated O/W emulsifiers and/or one or more polyethoxylated and polypropoxylated O/W emulsifiers, and
  - (4) optionally one or more W/O emulsifiers, which process comprises
  - (a) the initial concentrations of the oil phase, the aqueous phase and, optionally one or more W/O emulsifiers are chosen and these constituents are added to one another to form a mixture,
  - (b) the initial concentration of the O/W emulsifier or emulsifiers, which may also be equal to zero, is chosen and this O/W emulsifier or these O/W emulsifiers are added to the mixture obtained in (a),
  - (c) the mixture obtained in (b) having a starting temperature, and
  - (d) the mixture obtained in (b) by appropriate variation of at least one parameter selected from the group [comprising] consisting of the

temperature and the concentration or concentrations of at least one of the chosen emulsifiers and/or of the oil phase and/or of the aqueous phase, and the mixture formed passes through the phase inversion region between W/O emulsions and O/W emulsions and is brought into the region where the mixture exists as an O/W emulsion or O/W microemulsion.

- 3. A process for the preparation of transparent or translucent O/W microemulsions according to Claim 1, [which process comprises] wherein a mixture of the base components, comprising the aqueous phase, the oil phase, one or more of the O/W emulsifiers, optionally one or more W/O emulsifiers, and optionally other auxiliary substances, additives and/or active substances which form an O/W emulsion below the phase inversion temperature range, is brought to a temperature
  - at which the components soluble in the oil phase dissolve or are at least in the molten state,
  - which corresponds at least to the melting point of the highest-melting oil component not present in the dissolved state,
  - and which is below the phase inversion temperature range of the system, and the resulting O/W emulsion is then cooled to room temperature to form an O/W microemulsion.